



AMY SUE VRUWINK

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Guest Column: Representative Amy Sue Vruwink

This coming November, regardless of the outcome of the election, many of my current constituents will have a new representative. For example, due to the redistricting plan passed earlier this year, the 70th Assembly District will no longer represent Marshfield. In fact, Marshfield will now have two Senators and two Representatives.

I have enjoyed representing Central Wisconsin during my time in office, and the new 70th will now be branching over into western Wisconsin, all the way to the eastern edge of LaCrosse County.

I was born and raised on the family farm in central Wisconsin, and I now live with my husband and two kids over the creek and through the woods from the farm. I attended Marian University in Fond du Lac as a student athlete, and after college I worked for the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation before accepting a position in former Congressman Dave Obey's district office working on federal policy relating to agriculture and senior citizens.

I am a past chair of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture, and in this recently concluded session I was the ranking minority member. Agriculture is not only our state's heritage and tradition, but it is a 59 billion dollar industry in Wisconsin. I am dedicated to ensuring that we grow that industry to be bigger and stronger for future generations to carry on. Over my time in the legislature I've sponsored bills to promote Farm-to-School, expand dairy modernization and meat processing tax credits, and have always been a proponent of buying local and standing up for our farmers.

Another recent accomplishment that I am proud of is managing to bring Senate Bill 369 to the floor on the last day of session. SB 369 will provide a tax credit to those who hire disabled veterans. It is the very least we can do for those who have sacrificed so much for the rest of us. I recently attended the Tomah Veterans' Assistance Foundation's open house and learned about the services they provide to veterans in our community. I hope to be able to work with them in the future to provide more assistance to our veterans.

Finally, I also sit on the Assembly Committee on Transportation. An important issue many of my colleagues and I will be working on next session is wasteful spending on contractors and finding ways for the Department of Transportation to be more transparent in reporting their spending to taxpayers. This session the DOT tried to eliminate cost-benefit analysis of projects, but we managed to stop that bill in the final week of session.

I look forward to continuing to meeting my new constituents in the new 70th Assembly District. New parts of my district include Bear Bluff, City Point, Knapp, Manchester, Millston in Jackson County, Byron, Grant, Greenfield, La Grange, Lafayette, Lincoln, Little Falls, New Lyme, Oakdale, Scott, and Sparta, the villages of Oakdale, Warrens, and Wyeville, and the cities of Tomah and Sparta in Monroe County. Please feel free to contact my office at 888-534-0070, at Rep.Vruwink@legis.wisconsin.gov, or on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/amysuevruwink>.